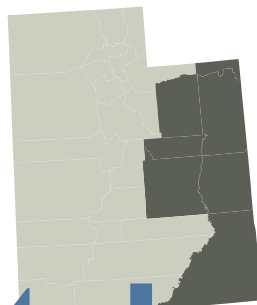


# Sources of Income in Eastern Utah



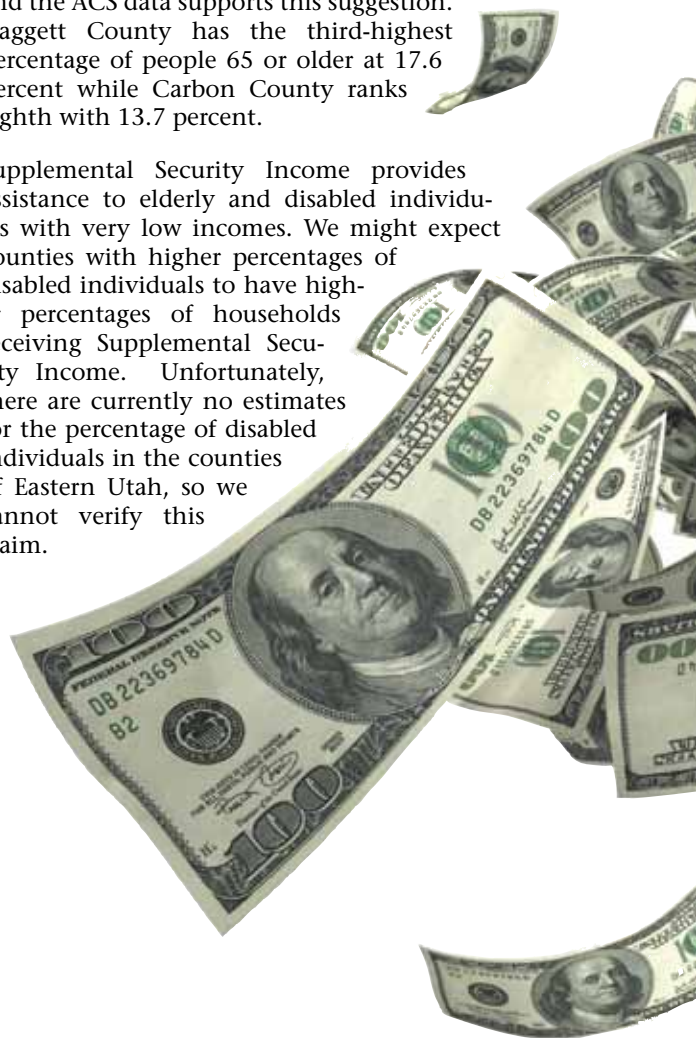
Using the new 5-year ACS data, this article focuses on the sources of income for Eastern Utah, where “Eastern Utah” refers to Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, San Juan, and Uintah counties. By looking at the percentages of households receiving particular types of income, we can develop a better picture of the counties in Eastern Utah.

The ACS identifies five main types of cash income sources: earnings, Social Security, retirement, Supplemental Security Income, and cash public assistance. Among these five sources, earnings are received by a higher percentage of households than any other source of income and they form the largest part of total household income. This makes sense because earnings are the wages, salaries, and self-employment income received by workers. Statewide, 86 percent of all households received earnings. In Eastern Utah, the percentages of households receiving income as earnings are all lower than or equal to the state average, ranging from a low of 69 percent in Daggett County to a high of 86 percent in Uintah County.

While earnings tells us how many households have individuals actively participating in the labor market, Social Security and retirement income can tell us something about the percentage of households that have retirees. Interestingly, the percentages of households receiving Social Security for all of the counties of Eastern Utah are higher than the state average. Another noteworthy fact is that if we rank households in Eastern

Utah by the percentage receiving Social Security and by the percentage receiving retirement income, the order from high to low is the same for the first five counties. This suggests that these counties have older populations and the ACS data supports this suggestion. Daggett County has the third-highest percentage of people 65 or older at 17.6 percent while Carbon County ranks eighth with 13.7 percent.

Supplemental Security Income provides assistance to elderly and disabled individuals with very low incomes. We might expect counties with higher percentages of disabled individuals to have higher percentages of households receiving Supplemental Security Income. Unfortunately, there are currently no estimates for the percentage of disabled individuals in the counties of Eastern Utah, so we cannot verify this claim.



## A look at income sources portrays a demographic picture of the seven counties which comprise Eastern Utah.

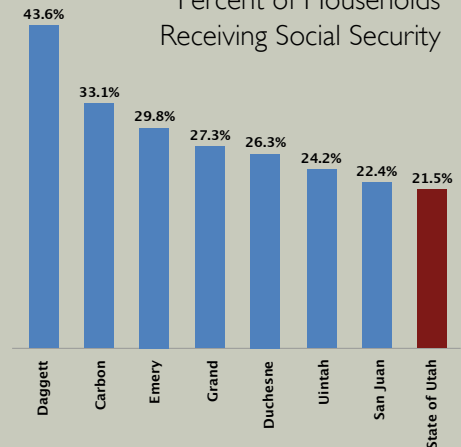
The last income source considered here is cash public assistance. This consists of cash grants from government agencies to individuals who typically have very little or no income. The most well-known government program of this type is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

On average, only 1.8 percent of households in the State of Utah receive cash public assistance. However, the percentages of households receiving cash public assistance in San Juan and Grand counties are more than twice the statewide average. These relatively high percentages can be explained in terms of the poverty rate. San Juan County has the highest poverty rate among Utah's counties and Grand County's rate ranks as the fifth highest. As we would expect, the greater the percentage of individuals in poverty, the greater the percentage of individuals receiving government cash transfers. In contrast, Daggett County has the fourth lowest poverty rate in the state, so it is believable that no one in the survey reported receiving cash public assistance.

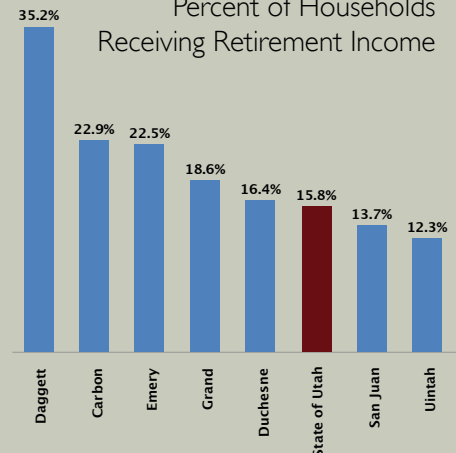
The American Community Survey is a veritable treasure trove of information. To learn more about your county, the link below takes you to the American FactFinder page of the U.S. Census Bureau's website, which has a link to the American Community Survey. ⓘ

<http://factfinder.census.gov/>

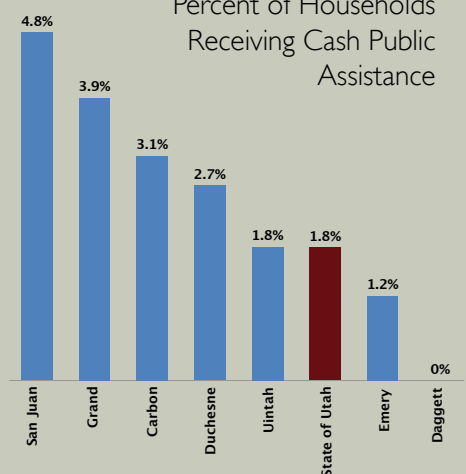
Percent of Households Receiving Social Security



Percent of Households Receiving Retirement Income



Percent of Households Receiving Cash Public Assistance



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for 2005-2009.